

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-9 and 11-14 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1 and 7 are independent claims.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-8, and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by US 6,110,041, issued to Walker et al. ("Walker '041"). Claims 5, 9, 11, 13, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Walker '041 in view of U.S. 5,779,549, issued to Walker et al. ("Walker '549").

Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 7 to recite that "each personal information item is a set of personal information for one of the plurality of players."

With respect to independent claim 1, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection at least because Walker '041 does not teach or suggest the claimed game machine in which a data storage stores a *plurality of personal information items with respect to each player*, each personal information item being a set of personal information for one of the plurality of players.

It is the Examiner's position that each of Walker '041's stored player preferences corresponds to one of the claimed "personal information items." Office Action at p. 5, Response to Arguments Section; Walker at 4:64-5:16. However, unlike the claimed game machine, Walker '041 merely discloses a system in which only *one* set of personal preferences is stored for each player in Walker '041.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claim 1 at least for the reasons discussed above.

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In addition, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of independent claim 7 at least because Walker does not teach or suggest the claimed method in which a data storage stores a *plurality of personal information items with respect to each player*, each personal information item being a set of personal information for one of the plurality of players.

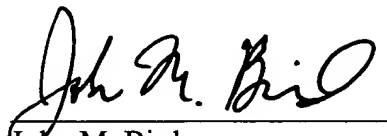
Furthermore, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of dependent claims 3, 4, 6, 8, and 12 at least because of their dependency from one of claims 1 and 7. Applicant also respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of dependent claims 5, 9, 11, 13 and 14 at least because of their dependency from one of claims 1 and 7, and because Walker '549, which was cited by the Examiner in an attempt to show an online tournament system, does not cure the deficiencies in Walker '041 discussed above.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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